

accountability for the expenditure of the money, or the affective administration of the system. Where it operates well, it is rather owing to the public spirit and enlightened labors of its administrators than to any legal obligation upon them. Our misfortune however is, that, in many situations we can obtain no knowledge of its operation at all. Not more than two thirds of the Counties, at the utmost, have reported its condition in them, in any one year; and a considerable number have never given any indication of its existence in them, except in drawing their shares in the distributions made from the Treasury. If you shall not think proper to institute a rigid enquiry as to the disposition which has been made of the public funds in these Counties, it is highly expedient, in order to ascertain the practical operation of the system, and to collect a mass of information for its improvement, that a Committee of the Legislature shall summon before them such and so many of the Chairmen in various Counties, or other intelligent persons, as they shall require, and take their examination, on oath, touching the merits of our present School laws, and their administration in the community. This mode of obtaining knowledge to enlighten the course of Legislation is not unfrequent in other Parliamentary Assemblies, and cannot but be of great utility on the subject under consideration. No concern of the State is now of greater importance, whether we regard the amount of monies expended or the object intended to be accomplished. I am yet of opinion that a school Commissioner to supervise its administration, visit the several Counties and districts, advise as to its management, exact accountability from the County authorities give publicity to their proceedings, and the due meed of praise to the deserving, and censure to the delinquent, is indispensable to the success of these schools, at least until they are established on a better foundation than at present, and that the necessity of such an agent